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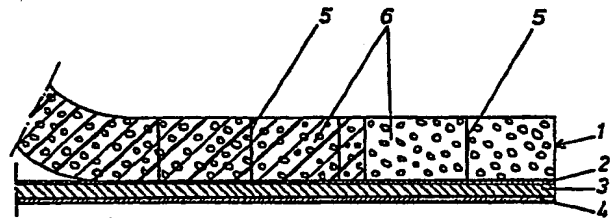
54 **Pressure relieving bandage.**

57 By a pressure-relieving bandage there is arranged a flexible, non-adhesive, waterproof film (2) between a foam layer (1) and a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer (3) containing a hydrocolloid.

This will ensure that the expansion of the adhesive by moisture absorption will preferably take place in a direction away from the film (2) and in towards the body. The bandage will therefore not so easily let go of its adhesion to the skin since there is no horizontal displacement of any importance.

Moreover, the foam layer is provided with cuts (5) so that large or small sections (6) can be removed from the bandage. The plaster can therefore be used as a pressure-relieving bandage.

For prophylactic use it is advantageous to insert a micro-porous tape (7) between the foam layer (1) and the film (2) and to leave out the adhesive layer (3). Instead the underside of the tape (7) and the film (2) is adhesive and protected by a removable protective cover (4).



EP 0 164 319 A2

1 PRESSURE-RELIEVING BANDAGE

5 The invention relates to a pressure-relieving bandage comprising a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and a layer of flexible polymeric foam.

10 Bandages of this kind can advantageously be used as surgical/medical covering and dressing that can be placed adhesively on a body surface. Moreover, by suitably adapting the extent of the foam layer it is possible to pressure-relieve any desired area of the skin since the foam is placed around
15 same thereby absorbing and distributing the compressive stresses to which the area are exerted.

20 Danish patent no. 132,520 describes a pressure-relieving bandage of this kind where a foam pad is provided with a pressure-sensitive adhesive coating on one side. This bandage serves primarily as an adhesive foam sheet which is used for covering irregularly shaped body parts which may change shape by normal body movements.

25 This product is characteristic in that the foam layer has been applied directly on the foam sheet which in practice means that polymeric foam and adhesive cannot be separated by tearing off the
30 foam areas corresponding to the desired pressure-relieved skin area. When in use, the product will therefore not provide any cover of the pressure-relieved skin area which will result in inadequate protection of the area.

1 Furthermore, Danish patent no. 147,226 describes
a bandage which likewise comprises a layer of
flexible polymeric foam the cells of which are
half-open, said foam being secured to an adhesive
5 layer. The adhesive layer comprises an adhesive
elastomeric material whereto there has been added
granules of a hydrocolloid which will swell in
water. The hydrocolloid can absorb moisture from
the skin and transfer this moisture to the foam
10 layer which will absorb the moisture and distribute
same in the foam layer. This bandage is solely
suitable as an absorbing bandage that cannot be
used as a pressure-relieving bandage since foam
cannot be removed from the adhesive layer because
15 the foam is not separated from the adhesive layer
and due to its special properties cannot be torn
off or shred and, moreover, does not have the
required thickness.

20 It is the object of the invention to remedy the
drawbacks of the known bandages and at the same
time provide a product providing hitherto unknown
advantages with respect to treatment as well as
handling and this is achieved by inserting a non-
25 adhesive, waterproof film between the adhesive
layer and the foam layer.

By inserting such film there is first and foremost
provided a possibility of using the bandage as
30 a pressure-relieving bandage in that foam sections
can be removed by tearing them off without damaging
the adhesive layer. In this manner the functional
properties of the bandage are fully maintained,
namely partly with an intact protective foam layer,

1 if so desired, and partly as a pressure-relieving
bandage with a fit foam layer where the area no
longer covered by foam is protected by the non-adhe-
sive, waterproof film which will prevent adhesion
5 of the area to clothes, linen and the like. The
desired overall applicability of the bandage is
thereby ensured.

The waterproof film moreover provides a special
10 physical strengthening of the adhesive layer since
it is compounded in such a manner that a cubic
expansion takes place when the adhesive layer
absorbs moisture. The film will ensure that the
cubic expansion takes place in a direction away
15 from the film and not up into a possible foam
layer. This is highly desirable because the greatest
possible direct contact between the adhesive and
the wound area is thereby obtained and with no
risk whatsoever that the adhesion to the skin
20 is eliminated.

Finally, as a barrier to moisture, the film ensures
that it is possible to use all kinds of foam that
can provide the desired pressure-relieving, form
25 stabile properties just as the foam layer can
be surface coated, coloured, impregnated etc.

Finally, the film provides a humid microclimate
bringing about good healing results.
30

As disclosed in claim 2, the foam layer in the
product can be transversely cut for forming adjoin-
ing sections, for example in patterns considering
both a minimum influence of the foam on the flexi-

1 bility of the product and an easy removal of foam
sections according to the desired geometry. The
product will thus provide both good body adaption
on curved as well as plane skin areas and provide
5 an easy formation of the pressure-relieved area.

By securing foam layer and film by spot welding
or spot glueing as disclosed in claim 3, it is
possible independently of choice of materials
10 to adjust the binding to the very optimum value.

The polymeric
foam can be composed of open or closed cells,
must have a specific weight $> 15 \text{ kg/m}^3$, must have
15 a modulus of elasticity between 195 and 5 N/cm^2 ,
must preferably be made of: polyvinyl chloride,
polyethylene, ethylene vinyl acetate polymer
or polyurethane and must have a cell number of
between 10 and 200 per cm, and as disclosed in
20 claim 4, the foam is preferably made of ethylene
vinyl acetate polymer and has approx. 50 cells
per cm. The foam thickness will depend on the
parameters of the foam in general, but will prefer-
ably, as disclosed in claim 5, be approx. 5 mm
25 by a modulus of elasticity of 110 N/cm^2 .

A particular embodiment of the bandage is obtained
according to claim 6 by inserting a layer of micro-
porous tape between the foam layer and the film
30 so that the micro-porous tape adheres to the film,
and the foam layer is welded or glued to the micro-
porous tape. There is obtained an advantage by
this construction when the micro-porous tape is
extended beyond the edges of the overlying foam

1 layer and the underlying film layer and/or adhesive layer in that in use an enhanced peripheral adhesion is obtained.

5 For further making the bandage comfortable in use the film is micro-porous, as disclosed in claim 7, thereby ensuring the best possible ventilation of the body moisture.

10 The adhesive layer should have self-adhesive properties and can, as disclosed in claim 8, in a generally known manner comprise an elastomer, a hydrocolloid, a glutinous agent and a plasticizer, and the layer can have a thickness between 30 μ and
15 1.5 mm.

Finally, as disclosed in claim 9, it is advantageous that the film has a thickness of between 20 and 200 μ .

20 The invention will be further described in the following with reference to the drawing, wherein

Fig. 1 is a bandage seen from the outside,

25 Fig. 2 is an enlarged sectional view seen in the direction II-II in Fig. 1. and shows that the foam layer in the middle is being removed

30 Fig 3. is an example of a bandage for prophylactic use, and

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the bandage

1 seen in the direction IV-IV in Fig.
3, and where the foam layer in the
middle is being removed.

5 Figs. 1 and 2 schematically shows an example of
an embodiment of the invention.

As will appear from Fig. 2, the bandage consists
of a layer of flexible foam 1 provided with a
10 number of cuts 5 for forming separate or adjoining
foam sections 6. These sections can be elliptical
around the centre of the bandage, and at the outside
there may be cuts extending inwardly from the
edge.

15 This foam layer 1 is secured to a flexible,
waterproof film 2 extending continuously over
the entire surface.

20 Under the film 2 there extends a pressure-sensitive
adhesive layer 3 and finally there may be attached
silicone paper 4 as a protective cover.

Examples of suitable foam materials are polyester
25 or polyether polyurethane foam which can be
compressed and melted together for forming a length
of foam with the desired cell size, volume weight
and tensile strength. A preferred amount of cells
is approx. 50 cells per cm, and the finished foam
30 layer can be approx. 5 mm thick.

A suitable film 2 is a polyurethane film which
should preferably have flexible or tensile
properties and which should be able to adhere

1 to the adhesive layer by a force $> 100 \text{ g}/2.5 \text{ cm}$
(ASTM D 3330-76) and should by welding or adhesion
be able to bind to the foam with a force > 25
5 $\text{g}/2.5 \text{ cm}$ (ASTM D 3330-76) and should have a
thickness between 20 to 200 μ . Such film preferably
has a thickness of approx. 50 μ . The adhesive
layer 3 is attached to the film 2.

10 The adhesive material 3 can be a sheet-like,
gelatinous mixture of a hydrocolloid dispersed
in a continuous phase consisting of a physically
cross-linked elastomer such as a
styrene-olefin-styrene block copolymer and a
hydrocarbon gel glutinous agent and an oil extender
15 and an antioxidant. Examples are self-adhesives
on the basis of polyisobutylene or styrene isoprene
block copolymers.

20 This material has good elastic and flexible
properties just as it adheres well to the skin
and has good storage properties. The hydrocolloid
has the effect that the material can absorb secretes
from the skin as well as from wounds. The adhesive
will thus expand so that there is obtained good
25 contact between the adhesive and the wound or
the skin. This will provide the best conditions
for a quick healing at the same time while the
adhesion to the skin is reduced at these places
whereby a removal of the bandage can take place
30 causing as little pain and inconvenience as possible
to the user.

The film 2 moreover ensures that the adhesive
will preferably expand in the direction away from

1 the film layer thereby avoiding a horizontal
displacement and thus maintaining the adhesion
to the skin. This is possible by the internal
floating of the material.

5

The film 2 may be provided with an extension of
a tape (not shown) extending along the outer edge
of the foam section 1. The tape is adhesive on
its underside thus providing a peripheral outer
10 adhesive area which according to requirements
may provide additional adhesion to the skin, cf.
the following explanation to Figs. 3 and 4.

15 Figs. 3 and 4 show an example of a further
embodiment of a pressure-relieving bandage which
is particularly suitable for prophylactic use.

It comprises the previously mentioned foam layer
1 which is designed in conformity with the comments
20 made on Fig. 2.

Between the foam layer 1 and the film 2 there
is inserted a micro-porous tape 7 which adheres
to the film 2 and which is welded or glued to
25 the foam layer 1.

As will appear from the drawing, the tape 7 extends
beyond the foam layer 1 for forming a marginal
zone of tape 7 for thereby obtaining a further
30 good adhesion to the skin in use. The tape 7 is
preferably micro-porous for giving the best possible
ventilation of any body moisture.

On the adhesive underside of the tape 7 there

1 is in a generally known manner arranged a protective
cover 4. For facilitating the removal of this
cover there may be arranged a flap 8 secured to
the cover so that the cover can be removed by
5 pulling in the flap 8.

If desired, the bandage can be provided with
additional properties that are well-known to a
person skilled in the art such as a frame of tape,
10 bevellings of outer edges, use of foam laminates
or another heterogeneous foam structure composition
and the like.

The healing properties and the possibility of
15 removing foam sections make the bandage ideal
for healing pressure sores and the bandage can
therefore replace for more expensive and more
resource demanding devices for the treatment of
such sores.

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PATENT CLAIMS

1. Pressure-relieving bandage comprising a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and a layer of flexible polymeric foam, characterised in that between the adhesive layer (3) and the foam layer (1) there is arranged a non-adhesive, waterproof film (2).
2. Pressure-relieving bandage according to claim 1, characterised in that the foam layer (1) is transversely cut for forming adjoining sections (6).
3. Pressure-relieving bandage according to claims 1 and 2, characterised in that the foam layer (1) is secured to the film (2) in spots.
4. Pressure-relieving bandage according to claims 1 and 2, characterised in that the foam (1) is made of ethylene vinyl acetate polymer and has approx. 50 cells per cm.
5. Pressure-relieving bandage according to claims 1-3, characterised in that the foam layer (1) has a thickness of approx. 5 mm.
6. Pressure-relieving bandage according to any of the preceeding claims, characterised in that between the film (2) and the foam layer (1) there is arranged a layer of adhesive tape (7).
7. Pressure-relieving bandage according to claim

1 6, c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t t h e t a p e
 (7) is micro-porous.

 8. Pressure-relieving bandage according to claims
5 1 and 2, c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t t h e
 adhesive (3) which in a generally known manner
 comprises an elastomer, a hydrocolloid, a glutinous
 agent and a plasticizer has a thickness between
 30 μ and 1.5 mm.

10

 9. Pressure-relieving bandage according to claims
 1-7, c h a r a c t e r i s e d i n t h a t t h e f i l m
 (2) has a thickness between 20 and 200 μ .

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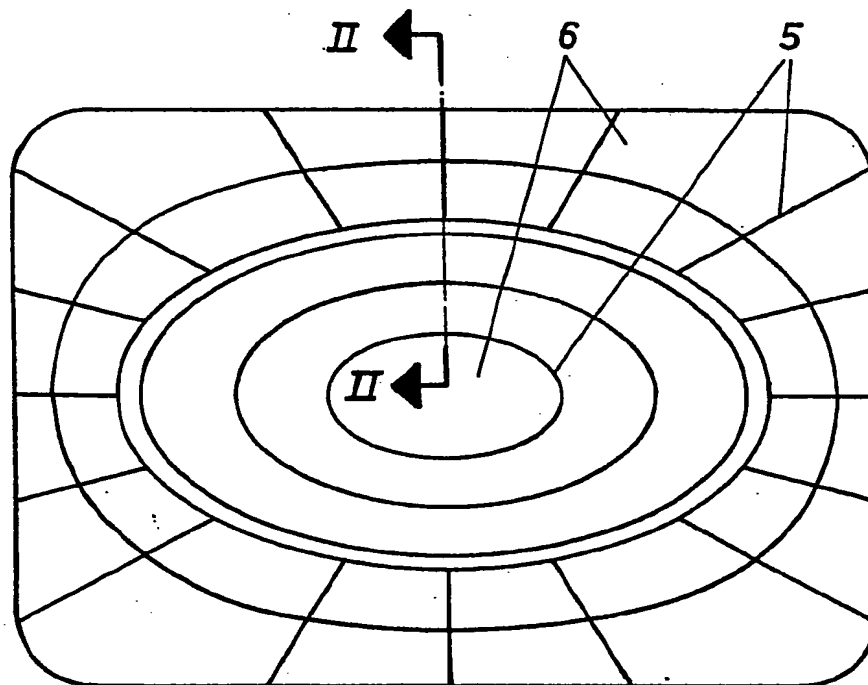


FIG. 1

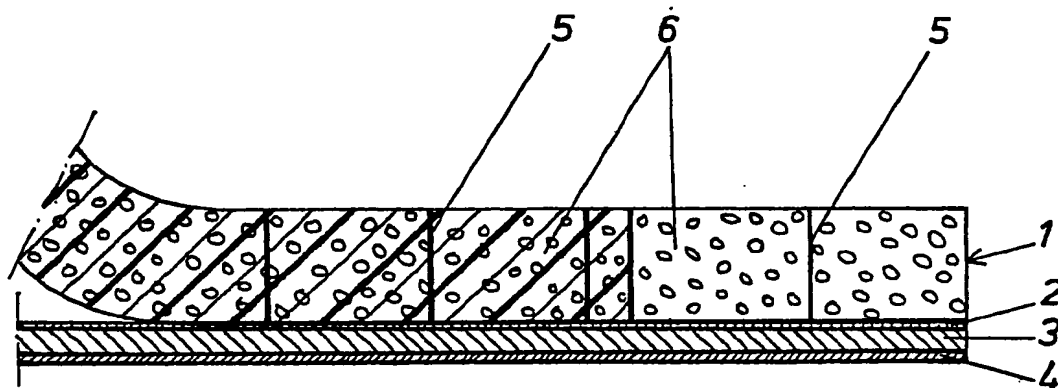


FIG. 2

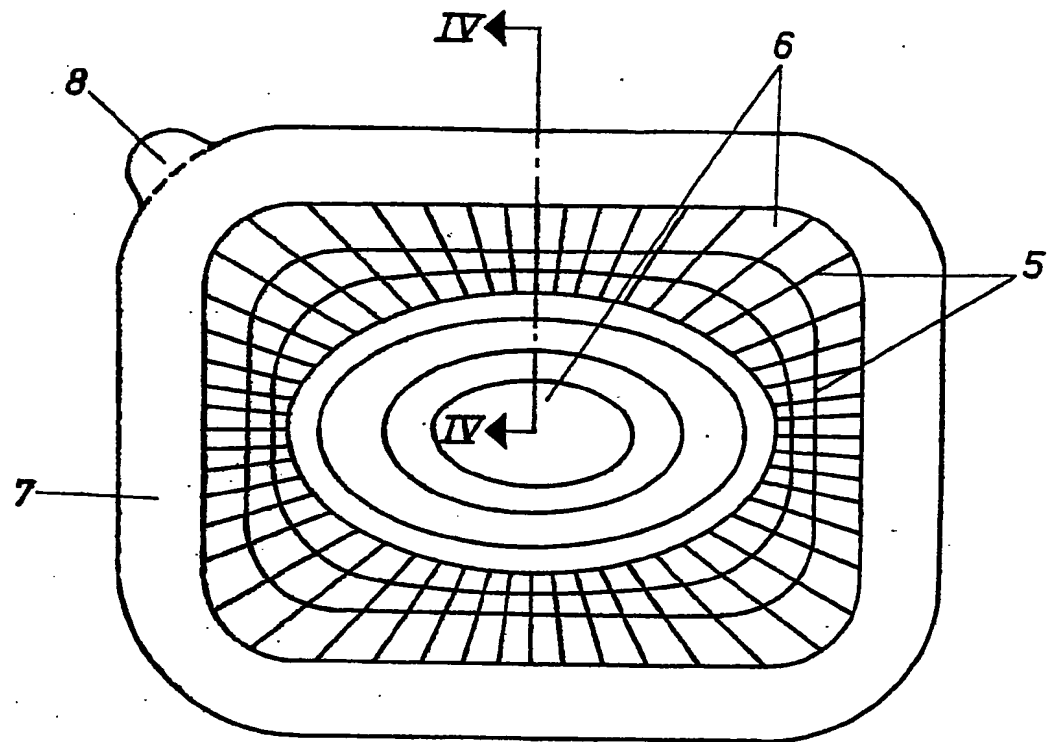


FIG. 3

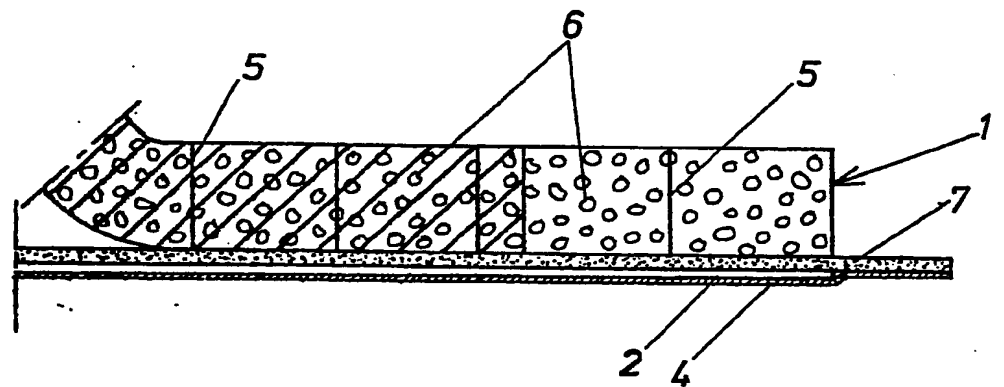


FIG. 4